

veteran's discharge from active duty. In addition, the twelve weeks of leave for "exigencies" relating to deployment includes not only leave for families of National Guard or Reservists in support of a contingency operation, but also leave for: (1) families of regular active duty servicemembers; and (2) families of those who have been deployed overseas.

The FMLA is intended to help individuals balance their family and work obligations. So far, working people have used FMLA more than 100 million times to care for themselves and their family members. When the Act was first passed in 1993, it was a giant step and, while we need to pass legislation to provide paid leave, FMLA is still of great importance to working families.

Since a majority of military spouses work, they too must balance work and family. They work to put food on the table and support their families. But they face additional challenges because their lives are disrupted by multiple deployments, involving not only active servicemembers but those in the National Guard and Reserves as well.

Over 35,000 servicemembers have been injured—many seriously—in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. These injured warriors need substantial support and care from their families, often for long periods of time, and some permanently.

In addition, veterans of both conflicts are developing serious illnesses and injuries after they are discharged from active service. Brain injuries such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome are disabling conditions but often do not materialize until well after servicemembers have been discharged from active duty. A recent study by the Department of Defense estimates that 11 percent of Iraq veterans and 20 percent of Afghanistan veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome as a result of their service.

No matter where we come down on the merits of these conflicts, we must support families whose loved ones put their lives and their futures on the line for our nation. The provisions of H.R. 2647 will certainly help.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN GALLEGOS

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Staff Sergeant Justin T. Gallegos, who was killed in action with seven fellow Soldiers as their remote outpost in mountainous eastern Afghanistan was attacked by insurgents on October 3, 2009. He leaves behind his mother, two sisters, brother and a 5-year-old son.

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Justin graduated from Tucson High School before joining the Army in 2002. Staff Sergeant Gallegos was assigned to Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Justin was on his first deployment to Afghanistan, but he had already completed two previous deployments to Iraq, the first a one-year deployment from November 2005 to 2006

and the other a fifteen-month deployment from March 2007 to May 2008.

Since entering the Army, Justin had earned a reputation for being a good Soldier. Over his career he earned more than a dozen honors including three Purple Hearts, two Army Commendation Medals and two Army Achievement Medals. He also earned the Bronze Star for his actions that day in defending his combat outpost.

On this day, he was deployed to a remote base near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. As insurgents poured over the hilltop ridge toward his position and the base, Justin and his fellow Soldiers held their ground before the camp was partially overrun and nearly destroyed by rocket and mortar fire. The team held back hundreds of enemy fighters before ultimately succumbing to the overwhelming volume of fire.

These men fought bravely and will not be forgotten.

We remember Staff Sergeant Gallegos and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Justin's legacy reaches beyond the desolate landscape of Afghanistan and into the hearts of a grateful nation.

This body and this country owe Justin and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his fellow servicemembers who have paid the ultimate price.

Justin is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his selfless service, sacrifice and bravery. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 772–774 on October 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 772, To provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 773, To reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 774, Congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation, "yea."

HONORING KYLE L. REECE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle L. Reece, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle L. Reece for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF HIRAM LODGE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating with the Hiram Lodge #7, Free & Accepted Masons, in Franklin, Tennessee, on the occasion of their bicentennial.

Hiram Lodge is home to the oldest continuous Masonic Lodge in Tennessee, predating the establishment of a Grand Lodge in the state. Located just off the square in Franklin, this beautiful structure has been home to many historical occasions—from President Andrew Jackson's negotiations with the Chickasaw Nation, to serving as a lookout post, barracks, and hospital during the Civil War. The Lodge is undertaking careful renovations to ensure this magnificent structure, the oldest Gothic Revival building in the state of Tennessee, survives for generations to come.

More importantly, however, is the role the Lodge has played in the life of the community over these past 200 years. So many of Franklin's leaders have been members of the Lodge, and to this day the Lodge is deeply involved in the civic and charitable affairs of the City.

Please join me in honoring 200 years of the Hiram Lodge's past, and celebrating this momentous occasion.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 2892, the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Act

Account: State and Local Programs
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Howell County Emergency Preparedness
Address of Requesting Entity: 3 Courthouse, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for \$250,000 for an Emergency Operations